

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

DANIEL E. SHEAROUSE
CLERK OF COURT

BRENDA F. SHEALY
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

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COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211
TELEPHONE: (803) 734-1080
FAX: (803) 734-1499

September 30, 2013

Brendan M. Delaney, Esquire
P.O. Box 2421
Spartanburg, SC 29304

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SEP 30 2013

SC Court of Appeals

Re: The State v. Lamar A. Graves
Appellate Case No. 2013-001873
Lower Court Case No. 2005-GS-42-00076 (motion for new trial)

Dear Counsel:

This responds to your letter to Chief Justice Toal dated September 17, 2013, and enclosed *pro se* letter that your client has sent to Chief Justice Toal. Please be advised that the Chief Justice cannot assist you with this matter. Instead, any issues you are having will need to be resolved in the South Carolina Court of Appeals where this appeal is pending.

Very truly yours,

CLERK

Enclosure (*pro se* letter)

cc: Salley W. Elliott, Esquire
✓ The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings (with enclosure)
Mr. Lamar Graves, #272024
Allendale Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 1151
Fairfax, SC 29827

Dear
The honorable Jean Hofer Tol

I am writing your office to inquire as to how I should be advised to proceed on my appeal of the denial of this ~~appealed~~ motion Rule 29(b) on who I need to be able to contact for I can be appointed counsel on this matter soon as possible, since Lorieue french advise Brendan Delaney she could not on the office can not handle this appeal. Please.

Thanks in Advance
Lamar Graves
#272024

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SEP 16 2013

U.S. SUPREME COURT

BRENDAN M. DELANEY
ATTORNEY AT LAW

POST OFFICE BOX 2421 * SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA 29304
[147 EAST ST. JOHN STREET 29306]
TELEPHONE: 864.706.3586 * FAX: 864.542.1033
brendanmdelaney@hotmail.com

September 17, 2013

Supreme Court of South Carolina
Attn.: The Honorable Jean Hoefler Toal
PO Box 12456
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: The State v. Lamar A. Graves
Appellate Case No. 2013-001873

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SEP 24 2013

S.C. SUPREME COURT



Dear Judge Toal,

I was appointed to represent Lamar A. Graves on his motion for a new trial based on after discovered evidence (Order dated July 3, 2012 enclosed). A hearing on the matter was held on May 24, 2013. Mr. Graves' motion was denied (Order dated July 23, 2013 enclosed). Mr. Graves instructed me to appeal the denial of his motion, which I did (see enclosures). Further, I forwarded all information to Appellate Defense for them to assume the representation of indigent Graves (see enclosed letter dated August 28, 2013). I then received a e-mail (copy enclosed) from Loriene French at Appellate Defense informing me that Appellate Defense will be unable to assist Mr. Graves on his appeal from the denial of his motion for new trial based on after discovered evidence.

I am writing your office to inquire as to how to advise Mr. Graves to proceed on his appeal of the denial of his motion. I further

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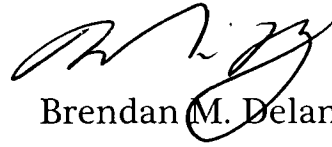
SEP 25 2013

SC Court of Appeals

respectfully request that the time frames regarding Mr. Graves' appeal be stayed until such time as this matter is resolved.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thanking you in advance for your attention to this matter, I am

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brendan M. Delaney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Brendan M. Delaney

Cc: Atty. General's Office, Salley W. Elliot
SC Court of Appeals, V. Claire Allen
7th Circuit Solicitor, Robin File
Inmate Lamar A. Graves

ACF

JUL 30 2013

BY: _____

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG)

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

The State of South Carolina,)

-vs-

Lamar A. Graves,)
Defendant.)
_____)

ORDER
2005-CP-42-076

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M. HOPE BLACKLEY

This matter was before this court by way of a motion filed by defendant Lamar A. Graves (Graves) for a new trial based on after discovered evidence (Rule 29 (b) of the South Carolina Rules of Criminal Procedure). A hearing was held on May 24, 2013. The defendant was present and represented by his appointed counsel, Brendan Delaney of the Spartanburg Bar. The State of South Carolina was represented by Robin C. File, an Assistant Solicitor for the Seventh Judicial Circuit. Also present was a witness for Graves: Demario Mack.

After hearing the testimony and evidence presented, and arguments of the defendant and his counsel as well as counsel for the State of South Carolina, for the foregoing reasons this court finds that the relief sought by the defendant should be denied.

Lamar A. Graves, SCDOC # 27024 (Graves) is currently confined in the South Carolina Department of Corrections as a result of his Spartanburg County conviction and sentence. The Spartanburg County Grand Jury indicted Graves in January 2005 for armed robbery (05-GS-42-076); burglary in the first degree, and pointing and/or presenting a firearm. He had a public defender who represented him on these charges.

On January 3-4, 2006, Graves received a jury trial for the armed robbery indictment before the Honorable J. Derham Cole. He was jointly tried with his co-defendant, Jovan Graves.

The jury found both defendants guilty and they were sentenced to 18 years imprisonment. Graves subsequently filed both an appeal, which was dismissed; and a Post-Conviction Relief (PCR) Application, which was also denied. Currently, Graves has a *pro se* Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus pending in the United States District Court. Assistant Solicitor File provided this court with a partial copy of a Return and Memorandum of Law filed by the South Carolina Attorney General's Office in connection with Graves' Petition, for the purpose of providing this court with a procedural history of this case.

Graves argues through his motion that he should be granted a new trial based on after discovered evidence, presumably under Rule 29 (b) of the S. C. Rules of Criminal Procedure, although not specifically cited in his motion. Graves claim is that a victim/identification witness, Demario Mack (Mack) has changed his testimony and now states that he misidentified Graves; and that Graves was not involved in the armed robbery. During the investigation, and both *in camera* and before the jury at trial, Mack had previously identified Graves as being one of the perpetrators of the crime.

Mack was called to the stand as Graves' witness during the hearing before this court. Mack is also currently incarcerated in the South Carolina Department of Corrections serving a sentence for lynching in the first degree. Under direct examination through counsel for Graves, Mack testified about his initial identification of another person as the perpetrator; his trial testimony during which he identified Graves; and that he had come into contact with Graves in the Department of Corrections. He was vague on details, during cross-examination, about when their paths crossed, and how long they were together in the same institution. He testified that, after getting to know the defendant in the Department of Corrections, he came to realize that

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K. HOFF BLACKEY

he was not the person who pointed a gun in his face and robbed him and the others in the incident. However, Mack also testified that the incident took place some time ago, and his testimony gave this court indication that his memory was less now than it was then. Mack also acknowledged that he was not the only witness who had identified Graves as a perpetrator, but indicated that he had been persuaded to do so by the other victims and witnesses to the crime.

Graves also testified, largely regarding his efforts to have counsel appointed to represent him; getting this motion heard; and seemingly implying that there was some conspiracy involved against him in this matter. His testimony added little, if any, to the matter before this court.

During questioning of counsel for both the defendant and the State it was acknowledged that there was an additional victim/witness to the crime, Troy Fisher who had identified Graves as a perpetrator both in and out of court. Additionally, there was a witness trial who testified he took Graves to and from the scene of the crime, among other things.

In order for the defendant to prevail on a motion for a new trial based on after-discovered evidence, the movant must show the evidence: (1) is such that it would probably change the result if a new trial were granted; (2) has been discovered since the trial; (3) could not in the exercise of due diligence have been discovered prior to the trial; (4) is material; and (5) is not merely cumulative or impeaching. State v. Spann, 334 S.C. 618, 513 S.E.2d 98 (1999). This court finds that Graves has failed to show that Mack's new testimony, which might be characterized as a "change of heart," would have changed the outcome of the trial. There was other testimony that would have been sufficient to convict Graves even if the jury discounted Mack's testimony either partially or completely. In addition, this court finds that the

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M. HOPE BLACKLEY

identification issue regarding Mack could have been discovered prior to the trial. Mack was in close proximity to Graves at trial and was cross-examined several times during the trial, indicating that there was ample opportunity to explore and discover this issue.

Therefore, for the forgoing reasons, this court finds that Graves has failed to meet his burden as required by law and his motion should be denied.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


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2013

Spartanburg, South Carolina

RCM

Andersa


R. Lawton McIntosh
Circuit Court Judge

M. HOPE BLACKLEY

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SPARTANBURG COUNTY

BRENDAN M. DELANEY
Attorney at Law
147 E. St. John St., P.O. Drawer 2421
Spartanburg, S.C. 29304
Telephone: (864) 706-1591 Fax: (864) 542-1033
brendanmdelaney@hotmail.com

August 28, 2013

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk, South Carolina Court of Appeals
P.O. Box 11629
Columbia, S.C. 29211

RE: The State vs. Lamar A. Graves

Dear Mr.s. Kitchings:

Please find enclosed for filing the original Notice of Intent to Appeal in the above referenced matter along with the Original Proof of Service upon opposing counsel and a copy of the Order to be appealed. Please call me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Brendan M. Delaney

BMD:som
Enclosures:

cc: South Carolina Office of the Attorney General
1000 Assembly St., Room 519
Columbia, S.C. 29201

Appellate Defense Office
ATTN: Sharon Graham
1330 Lady St., Suite 401
Columbia, S.C. 29201

Inmate Lamar A. Graves #272024
Allendale Correctional Institution SMU-241
P.O. Box 1151
Fairfax, S.C. 29827

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM SPARTANBURG COUNTY
Court of General Sessions

R. Lawton McIntosh, Circuit Judge

Case No. 2005-GS-42-076

Lamar A. Graves,

Appellant,

vs.

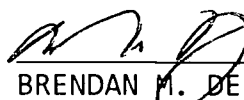
The State of South Carolina,

Respondent.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Lamar A. Graves appeals the Order of the Court of General Sessions, the Honorable R. Lawton McIntosh, Circuit Judge presiding dated July 23, 2013. Appellant received written notice of said sentence on August 23, 2013.

August 28, 2013



BRENDAN M. DELANEY
Attorney for Lamar A. Graves
P.O. Box 2421, 147 E. St. John St.
Spartanburg, S.C. 29304
(864) 706-1591

Other Counsel of Record:

Mr. Robin File, Assistant Solicitor
Office of the Solicitor
Spartanburg County Courthouse
Spartanburg, S.C. 29306

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B. HOPE BLACKLEY

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM SPARTANBURG COUNTY
Court of General Sessions

R. Lawton McIntosh, Circuit Judge

Case No. 2005-GS-12-076

Lamar A. Graves,

Appellant,

vs.

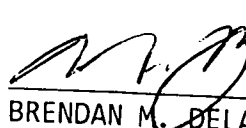
The State of South Carolina,

Respondent.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the Notice of Appeal on the State of South Carolina by mailing a copy of same to Robin File, Office of the Solicitor, Spartanburg County Courthouse, Spartanburg, S.C. 29306 on August 28, 2013.

August 28, 2013


BRENDAN M. DELANEY
Attorney for Lamar A. Graves
P.O. Box 2421, 147 E. South Johnston St
Spartanburg, S.C. 29304
(864) 706-1591

M. HOPE DELANEY

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SC Court of Appeals

BRENDAN M. DELANEY
Attorney at Law
147 E. St. John St., P.O. Drawer 2421
Spartanburg, S.C. 29304
Telephone: (864) 706-1591 Fax: (864) 542-1033
brendanmdelaney@hotmail.com

VIA FAX AND U.S. MAIL: (803-734-1397)

August 28, 2013

Appellate Defense Office
ATTN: Sharon Graham
1330 Lady St., Suite 401
Columbia, S.C. 29201

RE: The State vs. Lamar A. Graves

Dear Ms. Graham:

I was appointed to represent Lamar A. Graves on his Motion for a New Trial based on after discovered evidence. Mr. Graves' motion was denied pursuant to the enclosed Order I received on August 23, 2013. I filed the Notice of Intent to Appeal on behalf of the Defendant in a timely fashion.

On behalf of Mr. Graves, I am forwarding the Order appointing me. Also enclosed are copies of the Notice of Intent to Appeal, Order to be appealed and the Proof of Service for your records.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,


Brendan M. Delaney

BMD:som

cc: Inmate Lamar A. Graves #272024
Allendale Correctional Inst., SMU-241
P.O. Box 1151
Fairfax, S.C. 29827

Lamar A. Graves

From: **Loriene P. French** (LFrench@sccid.sc.gov) You moved this message to its current location.

Sent: Wed 9/04/13 12:15 PM

To: brendanmdelaney@hotmail.com
(brendanmdelaney@hotmail.com)

Cc: Sineath, Christina (csineath@sccourts.org)

Mr. Delaney,

I just received your letter with enclosures for an appeal from a motion for new trial based on after discovered evidence. This office only handles appeals from criminal convictions and post-conviction relief. We do not handle these types of appeal unless they were remanded by the appellate court. Therefore, we will be unable to assist you in this matter.

Loriene French

Div of Appellate Defense

(803)734-1330